



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Sept. 1, 2022

Reserved practice for Registered Professional Biologists and Registered Biology Technologists as Applied Biologists Regulation is fully enacted

VICTORIA -- Today the Applied Biologists Regulation under the *Professional Governance Act* was brought into force activating reserved practice for Registered Professional Biologists (RPBios) and Registered Biology Technologists (RBTEchs). This is an historic achievement as it makes British Columbia the first jurisdiction in the world where applied biologists have reserved practice.

The granting of reserved practice is the culmination of almost five years of work undertaken by the College of Applied Biologists' volunteers and staff and a realization of concept that was conceived nearly 40 years ago when applied biology professionals originally founded an association in BC. With reserved practice, applied biology professionals are now recognized as key contributors to the resource management sector and vital members of any professional, multi-disciplinary team.

"The granting of reserved practice not only provides current registrants with the formal acknowledgement of the critical role we play in managing natural resources in BC," explained Alexandra de Jong Westman, President of the College of Applied Biologists.

"It also requires those not yet registered to seek registration with the College which is a massive step forward in furthering the College's ability to uphold the public interest."

The amendment provides improved protection of the public interest because the new reserved practice for applied biology will require the use of RPBios or RBTEchs to carry out or supervise work in resource management activities that fall within the definition of "reserved practice" in the regulation. The addition of reserved practice ensures that applied biology practitioners are qualified, competent, and accountable by way of registration with the College.

Melvin Kotyk, who was the inaugural President of the College of Applied Biologists and served from 2003-5, added that "reserved practice was the long-term goal when biologists founded their association in 1984. It was on our minds when we lobbied for the right to title, self-regulation, and a Code of Ethics to protect the public interest, which were granted with the *College of Applied Biology Act* of 2003." Kotyk continued, "to now be recognized alongside our peers with reserved practice in the natural resource sector is a fantastic achievement for applied biologists and for the public in BC."

The College has released a compliance plan which prescribes the College's approach to compliance and enforcement of reserved practice. The initial phase will involve education and encouragement for



practitioners to register with the College if they are practicing applied biology. More information for the public and for practitioners can be found on the College website.

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As a professional regulator, the College of Applied Biologists is committed to acting in the best interests of the public by ensuring that all registrants apply, represent, and maintain the highest ethical standards of professional conduct and competence. The College has over 3000 registrants comprised of Registered Professional Biologists, Registered Biology Technologists, Applied Biology Technicians and associated in-training designations.

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